

issued its updated numbers regarding inflation, and what it showed was some good news: that in fact prices were flat; they fell 0.1 percent. Producer prices the day before was reported only went up 1.2 percent.

But not every sector of the U.S. economy is so lucky. If you are a self-employed individual, if you are a small business, the Department of Health and Human Services issued another report that showed that health insurance premium costs are going up at a frightening rate: in the State of Connecticut, where I come from, a 21 percent increase; in California, 35 percent.

Across the country we are still seeing a broken health insurance marketplace that lands the hardest on the self-employed and the individuals who are trying to go out and get coverage for themselves and their families.

We need reform which will spread coverage, create large purchasing pools, and give Americans the same benefit that every Member of Congress has who participates in the Federal employee health plan.

This Thursday we have a summit where both parties need to come together and give people the same relief that Members of Congress receive every day through their health insurance plan.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, when I travel around my district, I run into a lot of people who are looking for work, hanging on by their fingertips, and they want to know, When's Washington going to wake up? They're asking, Where are the jobs?

I have run a small business, and one of the things a small business needs in order to grow is they need some certainty, certainty about what the future is going to look like. With all of this talk about raising taxes here in Washington, D.C., imposing mandates on employers in the health care bill or a new national energy tax, all they're doing is creating more uncertainty that is causing employers to be frozen in their job creation.

The Congressional Budget Office has made clear that the mandate that was in the Senate- and House-passed bills, the Senate bill, \$750 per person for an employer who doesn't offer health care to their employees, each employer may have to pay that fee. Now what we see is the President offering that that penalty should be \$2,000 per employee. This is going to raise the cost of employment and, according to the Congressional Budget Office, costs tens of thousands of jobs across our country.

It's time to scrap this bill, to get back to commonsense ideas that will help improve the cost of health care in America and widen access and bring some certainty to employers across

this country who want to hire more people but won't with all of the uncertainty that is out there.

HEALTH CARE

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak to you about health care reform. This past month, Anthem Blue Cross in California decided to raise their insurance premiums by 39 percent. This is simply unacceptable. My constituents cannot be expected to swallow this price while they struggle to keep food on the table.

I have long been a supporter of comprehensive health care reform because of the unfairness and inadequacy of our current health care system. I applaud the President's leadership in convening this week's health care summit. Though health care reform continues to be a long and arduous process, the American people cannot wait any longer. We must come to a compromise and pass a health care reform bill that will cover as many people as possible with coverage that is affordable. We must prohibit discriminatory practices such as pre-existing conditions and do away with unfair practices such as caps on coverage. Any reform bill must also control costs so that everyone can afford to get the treatment they need. Let's do what is right.

WHERE ARE THE JOBS?

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it's been 1 year since the Democrats passed their so-called stimulus bill, and 1 year later, one thing is clear: the stimulus bill has failed. This has even been tacitly acknowledged by the leadership of the Democratic Party here in Congress and at the White House.

We were told before the State of the Union address that the President and House Democrats were going to "pivot to an emphasis on fiscal discipline and jobs." But as the American people are struggling, with unemployment about 10 percent and an estimated 14.8 million Americans looking for work, Americans are asking, Where is the pivot, and more importantly, Where are the jobs?

After a year of borrowing and spending and bailouts and takeovers, met this week by the latest version of a government takeover of health care, millions of Americans are asking, When will Washington get the message? When will Washington, D.C., from this well to the White House itself, start to put Americans back to work with the time-honored principles of fiscal discipline in Washington, D.C., and across-the-board fast-acting tax relief for working families, small businesses, and family farms?

Let's put the emphasis on jobs, Mr. Speaker.

CARD ACT

(Mr. KLEIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, we saw a tough new law go into effect. The CARD Act cracks down on the abusive practices of some credit card companies and contains strict protections for consumers long overdue, including banning unfair interest rate increases and outlawing abusive fees and penalties by credit card companies.

Putting this law into effect marks a new day for consumers and families in my district in south Florida. We finally have put in place some commonsense provisions to ensure that hardworking people aren't unfairly taken advantage of by credit card companies.

Too many of us have seen the tricks used by credit card companies—whether it is changing the date the bill is due or doubling or tripling the interest rates with no notice at all. I am glad to say those days are long gone.

This bill lives up to its name as a true Credit Card Holders' Bill of Rights. I look forward to working with my constituents to continue to make sure that we put the needs of local consumers first.

NEW HEALTH CARE BILL IS A MIDDLE CLASS TAX HIKE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, the White House has a new health care bill, but this new bill is essentially the same as the old one. It is still a hugely expensive package full of harmful tax increases for working Americans that will destroy even more jobs than Democratic policies have already destroyed.

During his campaign, the President said, "Under my plan, no family making less than \$250,000 a year will see any form of tax increase; not your income tax, not your payroll tax, not your capital gains tax, not any of your taxes."

That's interesting because this new health care bill includes about \$136 billion in new taxes on the very group that wasn't supposed to see "any form of tax increase."

Mr. Speaker, the American people don't want a government takeover of health care with billions of new taxes on hardworking Americans who are struggling to make ends meet.

SUCCESS FOR SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)